Commercialisation of Railway Properties

4392. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have started the exercise of selling land or otherwise trying to commercialise their land and other properties;

(b) how much activity has actually been done in this regard;

(c) whether any properties have been actually commercialised by the Railways in the last three years;

(d) if so, the zone-wise activities in this regard; and

(e) the specific financial gains accrued to the Railways in Andhra Pradesh from commercialising their property ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Railways have no intention of selling their land. However, with a view to augment the internal resources, the Railways have decided to utilise the air-space over its land/buildings for commercial purposes. To begin with, certain sites having a significant commercial potential, have been identified. These sites shall be developed as multi-storied office-cum-commercial Complexes. After retaining the area rquired for Railways own use, the remaining floor area shall be leased out to interested Parties who would be required to make payment upfront to the Railway. M/s RITES & M/s IRCON, the two Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Railways have been nominated to execute the Schemes initially on behalf of the Railways. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed with M/s HUDCO for undertaking commercial development jointly on a few identifies sites.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Railway Bookstalls

4393. SHRI N. THALAVAISUNDARAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of bookstalls (with names of stations) held by M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. on each Zonal Railway (division-wise) upto 31st December, 1999;